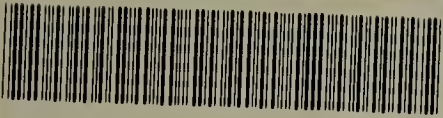


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1982

*Massachusetts
Lobster Fishery
Statistics*

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION

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Gerald M. Nash

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MASSACHUSETTS

DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

1982
Massachusetts
Lobster Fishery
Statistics

by
Gerald M. Nash, Statistician

Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Recreational Vehicles
Division of Marine Fisheries

Technical Series No. 17

A contribution of
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INTRODUCTION

The commercial lobster fishery of Massachusetts is the most economically important fishery conducted within the territorial waters of the Commonwealth. The overall economic importance of the fishery both in New England and, in recent years, the Mid-Atlantic states, has focused the attention of Federal, Regional and State fishery managers on this species. Initially, in an attempt to standardize management of the fishery, the Federal and State Governments developed an overall lobster fishery management plan under the auspices of the State-Federal Partnership Program. However, with the passage of the Fisheries Management and Conservation Act, the New England Fisheries Management Council, in cooperation with the Mid-Atlantic Council has developed a management plan for the entire east coast lobster fishery. The plan is in the final stages of implementation. The basis of any such plan and for monitoring the success of the plan is an accurate statistical data base. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with joint funding from the National Marine Fisheries Service, has been collecting annual reports from licensed lobster fishermen for many years. Historically, the data collected was used primarily for descriptive and informational purposes, and occasionally for management. However, with the recent emphasis on Federal management, this data takes on added importance in terms of providing the respective management agencies with adequate information to ensure that the interests of Massachusetts' lobstermen are protected.

During the period 1975-1980 the number of coastal commercial lobster permits was limited, by law, to 1300, with an additional 10% issued to proven hardship cases. In 1981, a statutory change provided for the establishment of a permanent waiting list from which 100 new permits were issued, and 20 special additional permits which were awarded to full time commercial fishermen who met certain criteria. In subsequent years 80 list permits and 20 special additional permits have been issued. Permits which are not renewed are retired.

This report is the sixteenth annual publication of data summarized from catch reports submitted by licensed lobster fishermen. Data was presented in a standardized format through 1979. For the 1980 report, data presentation was changed to reflect a more thorough collection and evaluation of the data. The new presentation format is continued in this report. It is anticipated that this format will continue until such time as the Division implements computer processing of the data.

This report has been prepared by personnel from the Division of Marine Fisheries Commercial Fisheries Statistics Project, funded jointly by the Commonwealth and the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Commercial Fisheries Research and Development Act (Public Law 88-309). The preparation of this report would not have been possible without the cooperation of the licensed lobstermen who provided the data on their annual reports. Special thanks also go to Nancy Leamy and Mary Ann Gachignard for their assistance in preliminary processing of the catch reports when they are received from the fishermen.

SOURCE OF DATA

No person may fish for or take lobsters in coastal waters or land lobsters in the Commonwealth without a permit issued by the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries (Chapter 130, Mass. G.L., Section 38). Chapter 130, Mass. G.L. Section 23, requires any person so licensed to file an annual report of their catch by January 31 for the preceding calendar year. In 1980, a dual reporting system was established. Commercial lobstermen (coastal, offshore and seasonal) receive a detailed catch report form with their license renewal application. This report requests the following information: method of fishing; number and type of gear used; effort data (set-over day, average number of trips per month, etc.); pounds of lobster taken; areas fished; principal ports of landing; and information relative to the vessels used in the fishery. Recreational fishermen are asked to report only the number of lobsters taken the previous year on their license renewal application form.

Project personnel sort, edit, tabulate and interpret data from all reports received. Data presented in this booklet are based on catch reports actually received and are not expanded to 100 percent levels.

EXPLANATION OF TABLES

All data presented in this booklet are broken down into two basic categories: the first is "inshore" which represents all data pertaining to all lobster activity taking place within 69° West Longitude and 41° North Latitude; the "offshore" category refers to all data outside of the given coordinates.

Tables presenting number of fishermen by license type, number of pots fished, number and value of boats used in the fishery and total landings statewide, by county and for each city and town were prepared using the catch reports submitted by all commercial fishermen. In keeping with Division policy, some of the data is masked or combined to protect the confidentiality of the individual submitting the report. Data referring to the number of fishermen, number and value of gear, and number and value of boats are presented by the home port of the licensee filing the report. Pounds of lobsters harvested are presented by the port of landing reported by the fishermen.

Due to limited data storage capacity of the programmable calculator used to calculate percent of catch by area and month fished and catch per unit of effort, only those reports submitted by holders of commercial coastal licenses could be tabulated.

Where tabular materials refers to county, the reader is referred to Figure 1. Fishing areas are delineated in Figure 2.

Vessel and SCUBA gear values were calculated on the basis of the fishermen's estimate of its present value and the percentage of its use specifically for lobstering. Average values were used when the information was omitted from an individual report.

When fishermen reported the number of lobsters taken, rather than poundage, a conversion factor of 1.18 pounds per lobster was used to calculate poundage figures. This factor is based on historical data.

1982 HIGHLIGHTS

- 1) There were 13,374 lobster licenses of all types issued during 1982: 1,538 coastal commercial; 274 seasonal commercial; 514 offshore and 11,048 non-commercial.
- 2) A total of 3,441 licensed lobstermen (26 percent) failed to file a catch report with the Division. Of the 9,933 fishermen reporting, 1,633 (16 percent) reported that they did not fish for lobster during 1982.
- 3) A total of 11,541,472 pounds of lobsters were reported landed. Of these, recreational fishermen reported taking 388,908 pounds, while the commercial fishermen reported taking 11,152,564 pounds. Based on a value of \$2.28 per pound,¹ the commercial catch was valued at \$25,427,846.
- 4) Commercial fishermen comprised 21 percent of the total number of fishermen reporting and landed 97 percent of the total catch.
- 5) Non-commercial SCUBA divers represented 23 percent of the fishermen reporting, but landed only 0.6 percent of the total poundage.
- 6) In total pounds of lobsters landed Essex County ranked first, Plymouth County second and Barnstable County third.
- 7) In total numbers of commercial fishermen, Essex County ranked first with 632, Plymouth County second with 417, and Barnstable County third with 170.
- 8) In the commercial fishery, pots were valued at \$10,778,885,² diving gear at \$28,661, and power and non-power boats at \$26,765,428, yielding a total gear value of \$37,572,974. Combined with the value of lobsters sold, \$25,427,846, gives a total fishery value of \$63,000,820.
- 9) Of the 11,152,564 pounds of lobsters landed commercially, 9,638,188 were reported taken inside of 69°W and 41°N and of that number 8,244,805 pounds were estimated to have been taken within the territorial waters of the Commonwealth.
- 10) More lobsters were landed in Boston, 960,214 pounds, than in any other Massachusetts port. Westport ranked second with 798,267 pounds followed by Gloucester with 726,658 pounds.

¹Ex-vessel price determined by weighted averages of prices listed in the National Marine Fisheries Service "Blue Sheet".

²Based on an average value of \$32.50 per pot, including warp and buoys.

- 11) Landings by coastal commercial fishermen rose steadily in the spring, peaked in August and then declined. The least amount of lobsters were landed in February.
- 12) According to coastal fishermen, the greatest numbers of lobsters taken inside 69°W and 41°N were from Boston Harbor (Area 4) followed by Beverly-Salem-Marblehead (Area 3) and Scituate-Marshfield (Area 5).
- 13) The average catch per trap haul for coastal fishermen was 0.550 pounds. For traps fished for one set-over-day the average was 0.436; for those fished two days 0.531; and for three or more set-over-days 0.625.

Table 1. Reporting Status of 1982 Lobster Licensees

Licenses Issued			
Coastal Commercial (\$200)			1,538
Seasonal Commercial (\$50)			274
Offshore (\$200)			514
Non-commercial (\$30)			<u>11,048</u>
		Total	13,374

Reporting Status			
Type	Not Reporting	Reported "Not Fishing"	Reported "Fishing"
Coastal Commercial	22 (1%)	239 (16%)	1,277 (83%)
Seasonal Commercial	113 (41%)	11 (4%)	150 (55%)
Offshore	109 (21%)	273 (53%)	132 (26%)
Non-commercial	3,197 (29%)	1,110 (10%)	6,741 (61%)

Table 2.

1982 MASSACHUSETTS LOBSTER FISHERY
SUMMARY STATISTICS--COMMERCIAL

STATEWIDE TOTALS

LICENSE TYPE	GEAR TYPE AND NUMBER		DIVING GEAR VALUE		POTS FISHED	POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE		NON-POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	POUNDS OF LOBSTER
Taken Inside 69°W 41°N											
COASTAL	Diver	6	13,075			6	32,125	1	150	14,580	
	Potman	1,253		309,145		1,240	21,365,639	76	31,195	9,188,606	
	Both	18	15,586	3,355		19	254,279	2	580	83,605	
	Potman	150		3,078		145	293,137	2	400	43,479	
SEASONAL OFFSHORE	Trawl	81				81	1,569,612			119,405	
	Potman	26		3,520		26	592,081			188,513	
TOTAL		1,534	28,661	319,098		1,517	24,106,873	81	32,325	9,638,188	

Taken Outside 69°W 41°N

OFFSHORE	Trawl	13		13	513,771			61,598
	Potman	12		12	2,112,459			1,096,626
	Potman							356,152
COASTAL								
		25		25	2,626,230			1,514,376
TOTAL								
GRAND TOTAL		1,559	28,661	331,658	26,733,103	81	32,325	11,152,564

Table 3.

1982 MASSACHUSETTS LOBSTER FISHERY
SUMMARY STATISTICS--COMMERCIAL

BARNSTABLE COUNTY

LICENSE TYPE	GEAR TYPE AND NUMBER	DIVING		POTS FISHED	POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	NON- POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	POUNDS OF LOBSTER
		GEAR VALUE	GEAR VALUE						
Taken Inside 69°W 41°N									
COASTAL	Diver	4	10,150		4	15,000			12,871
	Potman	122		27,135	115	1,764,163	12	12,715	821,154
	Both	5	4,604	497	5	47,631	1	80	15,721
	Potman	10		206	11	14,892			1,918
	Trawl	22			22	593,558			28,657
OFFSHORE	Potman								
TOTAL*		165	14,754	29,138	159	2,770,244	13	12,795	1,027,931

Taken Outside 69°W 41°N

OFFSHORE	Trawl	3			3	145,714			39,883
	Potman								
	Potman								
COASTAL									
		5		1,900	5	441,428			481,766
TOTAL*									
GRAND TOTAL		170	14,754	31,038	164	3,211,672	13	12,795	1,509,697

*Totals do not match the sum of the columns due to masking of data to protect the confidentiality of individuals.

Table 4.

1982 MASSACHUSETTS LOBSTER FISHERY
SUMMARY STATISTICS--COMMERCIAL

BRISTOL COUNTY

LICENSE TYPE	GEAR TYPE AND NUMBER	DIVING GEAR VALUE	POTS FISHED	POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	NON- POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	POUNDS OF LOBSTER
Taken Inside 69°W 41°N								
COASTAL	Diver							
	Potman	69	15,183	67	2,040,752	1	30	351,571
	Both							
SEASONAL	Potman	4	84	4	3,000			767
OFFSHORE	Trawl	3		3	315,895			3,018
	Potman							
TOTAL *		78	15,773	76	2,392,147	1	30	361,942
Taken Outside 69°W 41°N								
OFFSHORE	Trawl							
	Potman	8	5,760	8	1,116,745			309,691
COASTAL	Potman							349,120
TOTAL *		9	5,760	9	1,120,745			663,136
GRAND TOTAL		87	21,533	85	3,512,892	1	30	1,025,078

*Totals do not match the sum of the columns due to masking of data to protect the confidentiality of individuals.

Table 5.

1982 MASSACHUSETTS LOBSTER FISHERY
SUMMARY STATISTICS--COMMERCIAL

DUKES COUNTY

LICENSE TYPE	GEAR TYPE AND NUMBER	DIVING GEAR VALUE	POTS FISHED	POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	NON- POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	POUNDS OF LOBSTER
Taken Inside 69°W 41°N								
COASTAL	Diver							
	Potman	24	3,981	25	469,469	1	3,000	104,911
	Both							
SEASONAL	Potman	3	62	2	2,200			980
	Trawl							
OFFSHORE	Potman							
TOTAL*		30	4,203	30	601,097	1	3,000	114,245

Taken Outside 69°W 41°N

OFFSHORE	Trawl							
	Potman							
COASTAL	Potman							
TOTAL								
GRAND TOTAL		30	4,203	30	601,097	1	3,000	114,245

*Totals do not match the sum of the columns due to masking of data to protect the confidentiality of individuals

Table 6.

1982 MASSACHUSETTS LOBSTER FISHERY
SUMMARY STATISTICS--COMMERCIAL

ESSEX COUNTY

LICENSE TYPE	GEAR TYPE AND NUMBER	DIVING GEAR VALUE	POTS FISHED	POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	NON- POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	POUNDS OF LOBSTER
Taken Inside 69°W 41°N								
COASTAL	Diver							
	Potman	521	124,545	518	8,364,494	32	6,475	3,828,492
	Both	5	458	4	33,148	1	500	10,326
SEASONAL	Potman	55	1,169	53	91,870	1	200	17,861
OFFSHORE	Trawl	38		38	326,937			43,097
	Potman	6	268	6	48,570			3,851
TOTAL		625	126,440	619	8,865,019	34	7,175	3,903,627
Taken Outside 69°W 41°N								
OFFSHORE	Trawl	7		7	241,765			10,394
	Potman							
COASTAL	Potman							
TOTAL		7		7	241,765			10,394
GRAND TOTAL		632	126,440	626	9,106,784	34	7,175	3,914,021

Table 7.

1982 MASSACHUSETTS LOBSTER FISHERY
SUMMARY STATISTICS--COMMERCIAL

NANTUCKET COUNTY

LICENSE TYPE	GEAR TYPE AND NUMBER	DIVING GEAR VALUE	POTS FISHED	POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	NON- POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	POUNDS OF LOBSTER
Taken Inside 69°W 41°N								
COASTAL	Diver							
	Potman	4	581	4	44,500			18,705
	Both							
	Potman							
	Trawl							
	Potman							
SEASONAL								
OFFSHORE								
TOTAL *	6		601	6	53,250			20,621

Taken Outside 69°W 41°N

OFFSHORE	Trawl							
	Potman							
	Potman							
COASTAL								
TOTAL								
GRAND TOTAL		6	601	6	53,250			20,621

*Totals do not match the sum of the columns due to masking of data to protect the confidentiality of individuals

Table 8.

1982 MASSACHUSETTS LOBSTER FISHERY
SUMMARY STATISTICS--COMMERCIAL

NORFOLK COUNTY

LICENSE TYPE	GEAR TYPE AND NUMBER	DIVING GEAR VALUE	POTS FISHED	POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	NON- POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	POUNDS OF LOBSTER
Taken Inside 69°W 41°N								
COASTAL	Diver							
	Potman	81	21,159	81	1,649,530	8	3,530	710,417
	Both							
SEASONAL	Potman							
OFFSHORE	Trawl							
	Potman							
TOTAL*		84	21,195	84	1,661,388	8	3,530	711,736
Taken Outside 69°W 41°N								
OFFSHORE	Trawl							
	Potman							
COASTAL	Potman							
TOTAL								
GRAND TOTAL		84	21,195	84	1,661,388	8	3,530	711,736

*Totals do not match the sum of the columns due to masking of data to protect the confidentiality of individuals

Table 9.

1982 MASSACHUSETTS LOBSTER FISHERY
SUMMARY STATISTICS--COMMERCIAL

PLYMOUTH COUNTY

LICENSE TYPE	GEAR TYPE AND NUMBER	DIVING GEAR		POTS FISHED	POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	NON- POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	POUNDS OF LOBSTER
		VALUE	TYPE						
Taken Inside 69°W 41°N									
COASTAL	Diver								
	Potman	324		77,905	324	5,085,737	20	4,745	2,226,893
	Both	6	6,112	1,400	8	138,500			35,716
SEASONAL	Potman	62		1,251	59	159,924	1	200	18,428
OFFSHORE	Trawl	14			14	150,716			42,650
	Potman	10		721	10	58,047			13,736
TOTAL *		417	7,537	81,277	416	5,600,049	22	5,095	2,338,136
Taken Outside 69°W 41°N									
OFFSHORE	Trawl								3,272
	Potman								
COASTAL	Potman								
TOTAL									3,272
GRAND TOTAL		417	7,537	81,277	416	5,600,049	22	5,095	2,341,408

*Totals do not match the sum of the columns due to masking of data to protect the confidentiality of individuals

Table 10.

1982 MASSACHUSETTS LOBSTER FISHERY
SUMMARY STATISTICS--COMMERCIAL

SUFFOLK COUNTY

LICENSE TYPE	GEAR TYPE AND NUMBER	DIVING			Taken Inside 69°W 41°N			NON-POWER			POUNDS OF LOBSTER
		GEAR VALUE	POTS FISHED	POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE				
COASTAL	Diver										
	Potman	107	38,456	105	1,939,494	2	700			1,110,737	
	Both										
SEASONAL	Potman	11	207	12	16,418					2,631	
	Trawl										
OFFSHORE	Potman	4	565	4	34,250					8,476	
		126	40,228	125	2,154,454	2	700			1,143,940	
TOTAL*+											

Taken Outside 69°W 41°N

OFFSHORE	Trawl							
	Potman							
COASTAL	Potman							
TOTAL *		3	4,900	3	822,292			20,807
GRAND TOTAL		129	45,128	128	2,976,746	2	700	1,164,747

*Totals do not match the sum of the columns due to masking of data to protect the confidentiality of individuals

+Total includes two fishermen who reported landing in Middlesex County

Table 11.

1982 MASSACHUSETTS LOBSTER FISHERY
SUMMARY STATISTICS--COMMERCIAL

OUT OF STATE

LICENSE TYPE	GEAR TYPE AND NUMBER	DIVING GEAR VALUE	POTS FISHED	POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	NON- POWER BOAT	BOAT VALUE	POUNDS OF LOBSTER
Taken Inside 69°W 41°N								
COASTAL	Diver							
	Potman							
	Both							
SEASONAL	Potman							
OFFSHORE	Trawl							
	Potman							
TOTAL *	3		243	2	9,225			16,010

Taken Outside 69°W 41°N

OFFSHORE	Trawl							
	Potman							327,969
	Potman							7,032
COASTAL								335,001
TOTAL								351,011
GRAND TOTAL *	4		243	3	9,225			

*Totals do not match the sum of the columns due to masking of data to protect the confidentiality of individuals

Table 12. Pounds of lobster landed by commercial fishermen (except seasonal) by city or town of landing, 1982.

City/Town	Inside 69°W 41°N	Outside 69°W 41°N	Total
Beverly	545,285		545,285
Boston	939,407	20,807	960,214
Bourne	65,162		65,162
Chatham	144,756		144,756
Chilmark	92,841		92,841
Cohasset	533,625		533,625
Danvers	46,642		46,642
Dartmouth	4,159		4,159
Dennis	46,863		46,863
Duxbury	30,783		30,783
Essex	42,548		42,548
Fairhaven	95,105		95,105
Falmouth	24,966		24,966
Gloucester	716,842	9,816	726,658
Gosnold	12,044		12,044
Harwich-Brewster	279,318	81,634	360,952
Hingham	201,122		201,122
Hull	160,180		160,180
Ipswich	71,735		71,735
Kingston	23,691		23,691
Lynn	30,251		30,251
Manchester	219,521		219,521
Marblehead	552,498		552,498
Marshfield	652,543		652,543
Mattapoissett	37,771		37,771
Nahant	250,859	578	251,437
Nantucket	20,334		20,334
New Bedford	65,002	61,778	126,780
Newburyport-Newbury-Salisbury	69,111		69,111
Oak Bluffs-Edgartown	6,270		6,270
Orleans	57,856		57,856
Plymouth	707,355	3,272	710,627
Provincetown	113,276	689	113,965
Quincy	40,018		40,018
Revere-Medford	33,726		33,726
Rockport	442,149		442,139
Salem	63,090		63,090
Sandwich-Barnstable	273,900	399,443	673,343
Saugus	458,290		458,290
Scituate	495,146		495,146
Swampscott	376,945		376,945
Tisbury	2,110		2,110
Truro	1,314		1,314
Wareham	11,117		11,117
Wellfleet-Eastham	18,602		18,602
Westport	196,909	601,358	798,267
Weymouth	137,770		137,770
Winthrop	168,176		168,176
Out-of-State	15,726	335,001	350,727

Table 13. Massachusetts commercial lobster landings inside 69°W and 41°N by month and area as reported by coastal commercial fishermen in 1982.

Month	Percent	Area	Percent
January	0.5	1	3.4
February	0.2	2	13.1
March	0.5	3	15.1
April	1.6	4	26.1
May	4.9	5	14.7
June	5.9	6	7.3
July	18.4	7	1.9
August	22.3	8	5.6
September	18.1	9	2.2
October	16.6	10	4.0
November	8.1	11	2.3
December	3.0	12	4.2
	100.1*		99.9*

*Totals do not equal 100 percent due to rounding of numbers



COASTAL MAP of MASSACHUSETTS
SHOWING STATISTICAL REPORTING AREAS (Counties)

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Essex | 3. Norfolk | 5. Bristol | 7. Dukes |
| 2. Suffolk | 4. Plymouth | 6. Barnstable | 8. Nantucket |

Figure 1

LOBSTERING AREAS

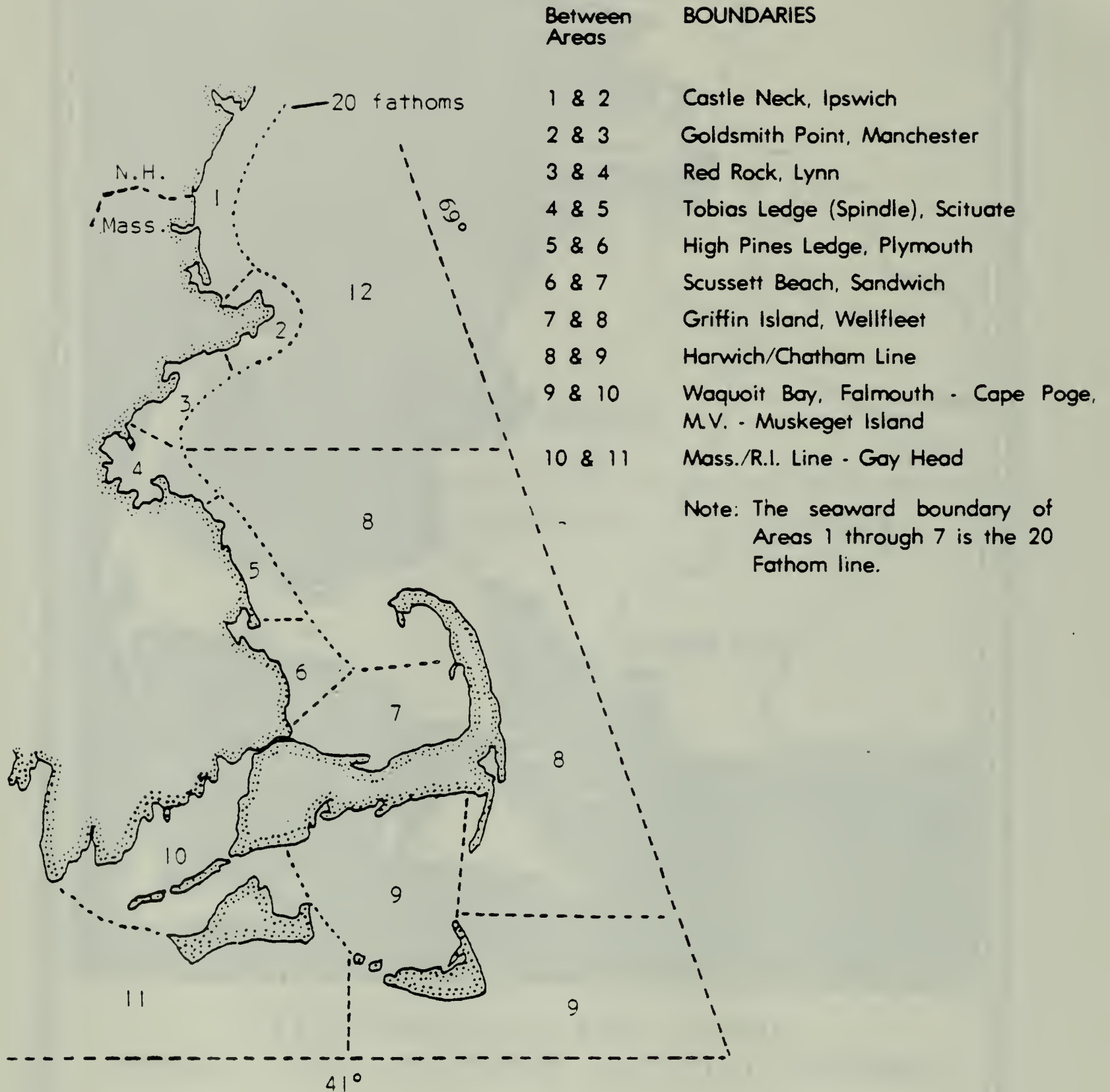


Figure 2. Location and description of coastal lobster fishing areas in Massachusetts.

DETACH INSTRUCTION SHEET PRIOR TO RETURNING REPORT.

